

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

January 25, 2023

Educational Resource Services offers resources for teachers preparing for Black History Month



February is National Black History Month. To support teachers with resources for their classrooms, Educational Resource Services (ERS) recommends numerous websites and books to use in lessons and activities.

Established in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson – known as the “Father of Black History” – the event began as Negro History Week, aligning with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration to a month during the nation’s bicentennial. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Debra Lockwood, ERS library/media supervisor, shared the following educational websites curated by the Library of Congress to promote the teaching of Black history:

[National Archives Black History Month Resources](#)

[National Endowment for the Humanities – African American History and Culture in the United States](#)

[National Park Service – Black History Month](#)

[Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – Black History Month](#)

Additionally, ERS has selected a number of books of interest to share with students during Black History Month. These titles are available for checkout from the ERS Library to contracting educators.

The ERS Library maintains a circulating collection of 28,000+ resources available for checkout by contracting districts, schools, and classroom and homeschool educators. In addition, subscribers can access the library's online portal – which contains premium content such as Learn360 Streaming, TeachingBooks, MackinVIA, Sora, ProQuest, ABC-CLIO, TumbleBooks/TeenBookCloud, WorldBook Online, and others. The ERS Kids Portal (K-8) and ERS Teen Portal (9-12) separate these resources into grade-level appropriate student interfaces.



For more information on ERS resources and contracting services, contact Debra Lockwood at debra.lockwood@tcoe.org.

Photos above:

Book covers of titles available for checkout from the ERS Library to contracting educators to share with students during Black History Month.

Registration open for Social-Emotional Learning Summit May 6 at SCICON

Registration is now open for the 2023 Social-Emotional Learning Summit, which will be held Saturday, May 6 at the Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation (SCICON) in Springville.



The summit will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Registration is sponsored by [CalHOPE](https://www.calhope.org). There is a materials fee of \$65 that includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/JikxJNWtVyYNbDRE6>.

At the summit, attendees will have the opportunity to connect, experience, and imagine through nature and breakout sessions – “adventures” – of their choice. Adventures include creating art, acts of service, trail walks, and yoga. There will also be sessions on topics such as aggression replacement training, mindfulness, self-care, and much more. For a complete list of adventures, visit tcoe.org/SELSummit.

Along with connecting with others, the summit will help attendees strategize approaches to better connect students and families to school. It will also help attendees elevate student voices and design school systems with students, families, and their communities.

In the morning, [Youth Equity Stewardship \(YES!\)](#) founders Benjie Howard and Wade Antonio Colwell will be joined by Orosi High School student leaders for the keynote portion of the event.

Benjie Howard is the executive director of New Wilderness Project, an outdoor education program focused on developing youth leadership for equity and land justice. He is the co-founder of Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!), a program offering an inter-generational, experiential, arts-based approach to school change efforts in public education. He is a touring singer-songwriter with four albums, including his collaborative 2016 release with YES! co-founder Wade Antonio Colwell.



Wade Antonio Colwell gratefully serves geographically diverse school communities as a poet, author, teacher, songwriter, facilitator, mentor, and performance artist. He is inspired by a growing social movement of collective reciprocity, where students, teachers, families, support staff, administrators, and the community at large realize the mutual benefit of healthy relationships, inclusive practices, and equitable educational environments.

For more information about the summit, visit tcoe.org/SELSummit or contact Lisa Lemus at (559) 302-3629 or lisa.lemus@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

Wade Antonio Colwell (left) and Benjie Howard (right) are co-founders of Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!). Colwell and Howard have begun working with students from Orosi High School to implement a YES! project on campus. Colwell, Howard, and the students will be presenters at the Social-Emotional Learning Summit on May 6 at SCICON.

Around the County

Strathmore High School hosts ribbon-cutting ceremony for new agricultural building



Strathmore High School held its ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Strathmore Technical Agricultural Research Center Wednesday morning. The building features six classrooms and science labs to benefit the EAT (Emerging Agricultural Technology) Pathway and the EAT Farm.

In a 2021 story for [The Porterville Recorder](#) about the project, PUSD Director of Student Pathways Cynthia Brown said the new facility would not only help to expand the EAT Pathway, but also help students gain real experience in a “high-tech plant, soil and leaf agriculture science research lab facility.”

“They’re learning about growing the crops, selling the produce in the farmer’s market for the real-world business environment experience — farm-to-table concept — but then with this new facility, the essential research for robust production through the soil analysis and plant analysis is crucial. So students will learn all the high-tech scientific research and data analysis that today’s farmers are using in agri-science,” Brown said.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, proclamations were received from Tulare County Board Supervisor (District 1) Larry Micari and (District 5) Dennis Townsend, California State Senator Melissa Hurtado, and California Assemblyman Devon Mathis.

Photo above:

Strathmore High School's new Strathmore Technical Agricultural Research Center was unveiled in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday morning. Photo courtesy of Porterville Unified School District

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To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.